

# Borough of Haslingden



## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year ending

31st December, 1951

and

## THE REPORT

of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

for the year ending

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## HEALTH COMMITTEE

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HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (ex-officio)

ALDERMAN F. SLATER, J.P.

ALDERMAN T. BROWN (Chairman)

ALDERMAN W. BOYSON, J.P. (Vice-Chairman to May, 1951)

COUNCILLOR J. W. HOLGATE (Vice-Chairman from May, 1951)

Alderman W. Boyson, J.P.	Councillor J. W. Holgate
Alderman W. H. J. Cowpe	Councillor G. H. Slater
*Councillor A. Bussey	*Councillor J. Walsh
Councillor J. Entwistle	*Councillor Mrs. G. M.
Councillor W. J. Everett, C.C.	Warburton
Councillor J. Ratcliffe, J.P.	†Councillor T. Dewhurst
Councillor E. Russell	†Councillor J. Hanson
	†Councillor S. Nuttall

† Member of Committee to May, 1951

\* Member of Committee from May, 1951

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### STAFF

Town Clerk:

L. M. BURTON

Medical Officer of Health:

C. H. T. WADE, M.D., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

W. DAWSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst.P.C.

Public Health Clerks:

H. Camm

E. Law (Miss)



August, 1952.

**To the Mayor and Members of the  
Haslingden Borough Council.**

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1951, on the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

Three cases of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) were notified after eight years freedom from this disease. No source of infection was found and no connection between the cases was established.

The fight against tuberculosis was assisted by the new method of detecting cases known as mass miniature radiography. The number of cases of active tuberculosis discovered was higher than usual and a detailed statement has been given in the text of this report.

Further progress has been made with unsatisfactory private water supplies, over fifty premises were converted to the Town's main supply.

Although 35 new houses have been completed and others are under construction the number of sub-standard houses remains virtually the same as last year. Some of these bad houses have been in occupation so long that there is a serious danger of accepting them as they are. Being made of stone they do not show the inward decay which exists and each continues to stand like some gaunt spectre of a tree from which life and health have long since departed.

I wish to thank Members of the Council and Officers for their valued help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. H. T. WADE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,  
Blackburn Road,  
HASLINGDEN.





*Section A*

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**Statistics  
and  
Social Conditions**

## Section A.—General Summary

The 1951 census gave an actual population figure of 14,505 compared with the Registrar General's mid 1951 estimate of 14,410.

The birth rate was 14.2 the actual number of births being 204. A comparability factor of 1.08 was given by the Registrar General and this increases the birth rate to 15.3. The use of this comparability factor gives a corrected figure which can be used for accurate comparison with other districts. The birth rate of England and Wales was 15.5.

The crude death rate showed a slight decrease as compared with 1950, from 17.7 to 17.6. A comparability factor of 0.87 was given by the Registrar General and reduces the rate to 15.3. The death rate for England and Wales was 12.5.

There was again a very welcome fall in the infant death rate from 40 to 20. This is the lowest figure ever recorded in the Borough and the actual figures show that only four babies died under the age of one year out of 204 registered births. The infant death rate for England and Wales was 29.6. The statement, which has been made in previous years, that any one year's figure should not be considered in isolation where small populations are under review, applies equally as much to this, as to the previous years. The present trend is however, very satisfactory as the last four years show a steady fall:—1948—64; 1949—45; 1950—40; and 1951—20. In 1951 the four deaths were due to the following causes:—Prematurity, Gastro-enteritis, Broncho-pneumonia and Asphyxia.

For the fourth year in succession there were no maternal deaths.

The death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis differs little from last year being 0.35 per thousand of the population. The national rate was 0.31.

There was a number of measles and whooping cough cases, 103 and 51 respectively. A considerable drop in the number of scarlet fever cases occurred, the number notified

this year being 16. Diphtheria was again absent from the district, but there were three cases of poliomyelitis these being the first cases for some years. One was a severe case with very considerable paralysis; one was a case of moderate severity with some paralysis; and the other was a mild case, with slight paralysis. There were no deaths from this disease. No source of the infection was found after detailed enquiry and no connection was established between the cases.

During the year 46 milk samples were submitted for examination for tubercle bacilli and as four of these were positive it is obviously most important to boil all raw milk before use, particularly as the milk may have been dangerous for some weeks due to the time taken for biological examination. Of the 50 samples taken for bacteriological examination (Methylene Blue Test) two failed to satisfy the standard required in a graded milk. Five samples of pasteurised milk were submitted for the phosphatase test and all were satisfactory. This indicates that the pasteurisation was adequate and rendered the milk safe.

In December, 1951, an Interim Report on a survey made of private water supplies in the Borough was presented to the Health Committee. The total number of houses without town's supply is shown as 331. During the year 50 dwelling-houses and one shop premises were furnished with a supply of town's water in lieu of unsatisfactory private supplies. Forty-five of the premises were in the Acre area and six in the Sykeside area.

During the year 28 permanent houses were completed by the Corporation and seven by other persons. At the end of December, 1951, 96 houses were in process of construction and 46 houses were under consideration. The number of sub-standard houses in the Borough is virtually the same as last year. The number of applicants on the waiting list for Council Houses at the end of 1951 was 435.

From a health point of view housing is the most important problem and the need in Haslingden is not only to deal with priority applicants but to provide for a much larger section of the population who are inadequately housed by reason of the exceptionally low standard of obsolete property.

## STATISTICS

Area in acres ... ..	8,195
Population (Census, 1951) ... ..	14,505
Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year population for 1951 ... ..	14,410
Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1931) ... ..	4,856
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1951, according to Rate Books) ... ..	5,299
Rateable Value ... ..	£88,673
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£347

**Population :**

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year population for 1951 shows a decrease of 260 in the total population, on 1950. It is now estimated as being 14,410. The 1951 census population was 14,505.

**Live Births :**

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male ... ..	108	3	111
Female ... ..	89	4	93
	<hr/> 197	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 204

**Still Births :**

Male ... ..	4	1	5
Female ... ..	1	...	1
	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 6

Total Registered Births for 1951 ... 210

Total Registered Births for 1950 ... 207

**Total Registered Deaths :**

	Male	Female	Total
For 1951 ... ..	126	128	254
For 1950 ... ..	132	128	260

**Total Deaths of Infants under 1 year :**  
For 1951 :

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male ... ..	...	...	...
Female ... ..	4	...	4
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> ...	<hr/> 4

For 1950 :

Male ... ..	6	...	6
Female ... ..	2	...	2
	<hr/> 8	<hr/> ...	<hr/> 8

TABLE I

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			Pulmonary Tuberculosis
	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1000 pop'n	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1000 pop'n	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1000 Total Births	No of Deaths Regis- tered	Rate per 1000 Total Births	Total No. of Deaths Regis- tered	Rate per 1000 Live Births	No. of Deaths Regis- tered	
Year 1951 ...	204	14.2*	254	17.6*	6	29	Nil	Nil	4	20	Nil	5 0.35
Year 1950 ...	202	13.8	260	17.7	5	24	Nil	Nil	8	40	6	5 0.34
, 1949 ...	202	13.8	257	17.6	9	43	Nil	Nil	9	45	—	2 0.14
.. 1948 ...	250	17.1	219	15.0	3	11	Nil	Nil	16	64	—	2 0.13
.. 1947	287	20.1	232	16.3	7	23	1	3.40	17	59	—	2 0.14
.. 1946 ...	234	16.7	224	16.0	9	37	2	8.23	12	51	—	5 0.35
Avg. 5 years - 1946—1950	—	16.3	—	16.5	—	27	—	2.48	—	53	—	— 0.22

\* Adjusted—Live Birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.08) = 15.3 per 1,000.  
Death-rate (comparability factor, 0.87) = 15.3 per 1,000.

As in previous years heart disease is again responsible for the greatest number of deaths, 110 deaths being certified as due to this cause.

Details of the principal causes of death during 1951 are given in Table II.

**TABLE II.**  
**PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1951**

Causes of Death.	Number of Deaths
Meningococcal Infections ... ..	—
Leukaemia ... ..	2
Whooping Cough ... ..	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ... ..	5
Other forms of tuberculosis ... ..	1
Syphilitic diseases ... ..	1
Influenza ... ..	4
Measles ... ..	—
Acute poliomyelitis ... ..	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	—
Cancer, malignant disease, all forms ... ..	31
Other disease of the circulatory system ... ..	5
Diabetes ... ..	3
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ... ..	32
Heart Disease ... ..	110
Bronchitis ... ..	18
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	8
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ... ..	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	1
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	—
Congenital malformations ... ..	1
Suicide ... ..	4
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	1
Homicide and operations of war ... ..	—
All other accidents ... ..	1
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	17





Section B  
**General Provision  
of  
Health Services**

## General Provision of Health Services for the Area

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Under the National Health Service Act the County Council is responsible for the local health services.

The examination of pathological specimens and milk and water samples is undertaken without charge by the Public Health Laboratory at Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

The following matters are the responsibility of the Borough Council:— The control of infectious disease; provision of suitable water supplies; control of cleansing and disposal of refuse; inspection of all food and food-preparing premises; sampling of foodstuffs (milk, ice-cream, etc.) for bacteriological examination; sanitary accommodation to houses, factories, shops and other premises; inspection of houses with regard to fitness for human habitation; nuisances and defects; rodent control; offensive trades; smoke abatement; and many other matters concerned with environmental health.

Hospital facilities are now under the Regional Board and Management Committees and patients are admitted without regard to local boundaries.

Ambulance, District Nursing, Midwifery and Maternity and Child Welfare Services are provided by the County Council and administered under the Divisional Health Service Scheme.

Section C

**Prevalence of and Control over  
Infectious and other Diseases**

TABLE III.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) RECEIVED DURING  
THE YEAR 1951

"Notifiable" Diseases	Total Cases Notified																	Hospital		Total Deaths
	Total Cases at all Ages	Years																Total cases removed to Hospital from district	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district	
		Un-der 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over						
Measles ... ..	103	6	7	25	24	14	24	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	
Whooping Cough ...	51	4	5	6	14	5	11	4	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	
Scarlet Fever ...	16	...	1	...	3	2	7	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	
Acute Pneumonia ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Puerperal Pyrexia...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	
Totals...	178	10	13	31	42	21	42	8	1	6	...	1	3	...	...	...	16	...	...	

### Infectious Disease:

Cases of Infectious Disease are treated without charge at the infectious disease hospital and similarly pathological examinations are made without charge at the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

The National Health Service Act requires that copies of all notifications of infectious disease must be forwarded without delay to the County Medical Officer. In practice these notifications are sent to the Divisional Medical Officer so that he may correlate action within the health division and to enable the Divisional Committee to gain a regular knowledge of the incidence of infectious disease throughout their area.

Diphtheria immunisation is now the responsibility of the County Council but close co-operation between the Borough Council and the County Council is maintained particularly for propaganda purposes. During the year, 146 children under five years of age were immunised and seven between the ages of 5 and 14. The percentage of children who have completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1951 is as follows:— Children under 5—50.5 per cent. Children 5 to 14 years inclusive—80.1 per cent.

Table IV shows the number of cases of infectious diseases treated in hospital during 1951.

**TABLE IV**  
**CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE TREATED**  
**IN HOSPITAL DURING 1951.**

Cases	Disease				
	Measles	Whoop'g Cough	Scarlet Fever	Puerp'ral Pyrexia	Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)
In Hospital at begin- ning of year ...	...	...	1	...	...
Admitted during the year ...	3	3	6	1	3
Discharged during the year ...	3	3	7	1	3
Died in Hospital ...	...	...	...	...	...
Remaining in Hos- pital at end of year	...	...	...	...	...

**Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations:**

Table V shows the results of bacteriological examinations made during the year.

**TABLE V.**

**BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS DURING  
1951.**

Particulars of Examination	Positive	Negative	Total
Diphtheria—Throat Swabs ...	...	2	2
Other Swabs ...	...	...	...
Virulence Tests	..		...
Other Examinations— Haemolytic Streptococci	3	1	4

**Tuberculosis:**

Each case of tuberculosis is visited by the Tuberculosis Health visitor of the Lancashire County Council as soon as possible after receipt of notification. Eighty-four cases were visited during the year, the number of visits paid being 378. Where desirable, Sanatorium or Hospital treatment is arranged for after consultation between the Chest Physician and the Medical Practitioner concerned.

At the beginning of the year there were 91 cases of tuberculosis on the register, 34 cases were added and 21 cases taken off the register, leaving a total of 104 cases on the register at the end of the year. The following gives an analysis of the cases on the register during the year.

TABLE VI.

## PARTICULARS OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON THE REGISTER DURING 1951.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Number of Cases of tuberculosis on the Register at the commencement of the year. ...	19	20	39	30	22	52	49	42	91
Number of Cases added to the register during the year ... ..	17	9	26	5	3	8	22	12	34
Number of Cases of tuberculosis removed from the register during the year on account of									
(a) having died ... ..	4	3	7	1	..	1	5	3	8
(b) having left the district ... ..	1	3	4	...	...	...	1	3	4
(c) having recovered ... ..	...	1	1	3	4	7	3	5	8
(d) diagnosis of tuberculosis not being confirmed ... ..	...	1	1	...	...	...	..	1	1
Number of Cases remaining on the register at the end of the year ... ..	31	21	52	31	21	52	62	42	104

Table VII gives the age of the cases of tuberculosis notified and deaths from the disease during 1951.

**TABLE VII.**  
**TUBERCULOSIS.**  
**NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING**  
**THE YEAR 1951.**

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Years								
0-1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1-5	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
5-10	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
10-15	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
15-20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20-25	2	3	...	...	...	1	...	...
25-35	8	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
35-45	3	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
45-65	3	1	1	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
	17	9	5	3	3	2	1	...
	26		8		5		1	

**N.B.** Primary notifications only included in the above table.



## Tuberculosis :

The battle against tuberculosis has been intensified these last few years by using new methods of detection, by the discovery of new medicines and by improved surgical methods of treatment. An improvement in the general standard of living has also materially contributed towards the conquest of tuberculosis.

There is every reason to believe that what has been achieved in the control of diphtheria can also be achieved with tuberculosis but the fight against it will be harder and longer. For success against tuberculosis we require not only new methods of treatment but, in addition, good standards of living, that is, good food, good conditions of work and leisure, fresh air and adequate housing. It also requires a reduction in sources of infection.

This last item is being attacked by means of mass miniature radiography. By taking photographs of the lungs of a large proportion of the population it has been shown that there are roughly as many cases of tuberculosis which we did not know about as those which we did. These newly discovered cases can then be treated at a much earlier stage with better results and can also be advised how to avoid spreading the disease to others.

Such a survey has been carried out in Haslingden during 1951. Over 4,000 persons were X-rayed, equal to one third of the population over the age of 14 years—very few cases occur under this age.

A total of 18 active cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were discovered giving a rate of 4.1 per thousand examined. This is about double the average rate. The male cases were chiefly between the ages of 25 - 60 and the female cases were 15 - 34 years of age. Tables VIII and IX give a detailed analysis of the findings.

The high discovery rate in Haslingden is surprising, the comparable rates in adjoining areas are shown below :—

Haslingden	4.1 cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis
Rawtenstall	2.5 cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis
Bacup	1.8 cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis

The average number of active cases discovered by all six Mass Miniature Radiography Units operating in the Manchester Region during 1951 was 1.65 per 1,000 examined.

When the majority of the active cases of pulmonary tuberculosis have been identified there should be a material reduction in the incidence of the disease because **new cases cannot occur if there is no source of infection.** Haslingden could be one of the first townships to achieve this because of its relatively isolated position.

A second method of attack on tuberculosis is by means of preventive inoculation by what is known as B.C.G vaccine. This largely applies to babies and young children who are living in a household where there is an active case of pulmonary tuberculosis. It is possible by a simple inoculation to help the child to develop some resistance to the infection.

Thirdly, improved methods of treatment and new drugs are giving better results in dealing with actual cases of the disease.

The fourth and final factor helping to keep tuberculosis under control is the establishment of good living conditions, that is, good food, good conditions of work and leisure, fresh air and adequate housing. These are the social factors and they are not less important than any of the previous items. The majority of adults have been infected at some time or other with tuberculosis and have recovered from it without ill effect.

**TABLE VIII**  
**ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EXAMINED**  
**MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY—**  
**HASLINGDEN, 1951**

	Males	Females	Total
No. of Industrial and Office Personnel available ...	2,794	2,511	5,305
No. of Industrial and Office Personnel X-rayed ...	1,650	1,362	3,012
Percentage Response ... ..	59.1%	54.1%	56.8%
No. of General Public X-rayed	337	728	1,065
No. of Schoolchildren X-rayed ... ..	101	136	237
No. of Ante-Natal Cases X-rayed ... ..	...	14	14
No. of General Practitioner Cases X-rayed ... ..	8	12	20
No. of Persons in Contact with Schoolchildren X-rayed ... ..	3	22	25
<b>Total number in all groups X-rayed ... ..</b>	<b>2,099</b>	<b>2,274</b>	<b>4,373</b>

**TABLE IX**  
**ACTIVE PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS**  
**DISCOVERED (PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN)**  
**MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY—**  
**HASLINGDEN, 1951**

	No of Cases Discovered			Rate per 1000 Examined		
	Males	F'mls	Total	Males	F'mls	Total
Industrial and Office Personnel	7	5	12	4.2	3.7	4.0
General Public .. ...	4	1	5	11.9	1.4	4.7
Schoolchildren ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ante-Natal Cases ... ..	...	1	1	...	71.4	71.4
General Practitioner Cases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Persons in contact with School-children... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>4.1</b>

The examination of sputum for the presence of tubercle bacilli is carried out at the Blackburn Royal Infirmary. Of 80 such specimens examined during 1951, six were positive and 74 negative.

In no instance has there been any wilful neglect or refusal to notify; the notification of tuberculosis in this district being satisfactory.

There does not appear to be any excessive incidence of, or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.

It has not been necessary to take action during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under the Public Health Acts relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

Table X gives particulars of disinfection during the year.

**TABLE X.**  
**DISINFECTION DURING 1951**

Disease etc	Number of Rooms	Number of Articles
Tuberculosis ..	25	263
Other Causes ...	3	33

(Number of houses ... .. 26)

Room fumigation for diseases other than tuberculosis and smallpox is no longer recommended. Experience has shown that thorough cleansing with soap and water and disinfectant together with efficient ventilation of the rooms is adequate.

Infection, in the cases of diseases like scarlet fever and diphtheria, is nearly always due to personal contact or to the infection of food and drink.

Section D

**Sanitary Circumstances**

**Borough of Haslingden**

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Public Health Offices,  
Blackburn Road,  
Haslingden.  
1st September, 1952.

**SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my fifth Annual Report on sanitary conditions in the area and progress recorded in 1951.

The report deals in some detail with the many branches of environmental hygiene, but this introductory letter comments on those matters which have been most prominent during the year.

Housing must always remain the major problem until the ideal is achieved of a house reasonably fit for human habitation for every family in the community. Whilst the erection of new houses is a vital part of this crusade and receives much publicity at both national and local level, there is tendency to overlook an equally important section of the housing problem. I refer to the many houses in this and every other town of a similar age, which are slowly deteriorating year by year due to lack of ordinary maintenance. These are not at this stage, unfit houses, but will sooner or later have to be so classified if repair and maintenance continues to be neglected. Considerable efforts are being made by the Health Committee and this Department to meet this problem, but there is no doubt that even the best of landlords are reluctant, due to the unbalanced economics of house letting, to carry out their obligations with regard to repair. Consequently the position tends to deteriorate. It would appear that only the consideration of the matter at Government level, with subsequent legislation, can effectively deal with this problem.

During the year a survey was made of the private water supplies in the Borough and an Interim Report presented to the Health Committee. The survey was exploratory in character and the report pointed out the problem rather than the solution. Much work will be



required with regard to sampling, ground surveys and estimating before the Committee are in a position to recommend any large scale scheme of improvement. There are 331 houses dependent on private water supplies. This shows a very considerable reduction from the figure in pre-war days (538 in 1939). In the last four years over a hundred houses have been connected to the public mains, as a result of action by this department, fifty being so connected in 1951.

The proposals of the Town Council to purchase land at South Shore for refuse disposal met with a number of objections and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government held a Public Inquiry in Haslingden on 7th November. The Council put up a very strong case to the Ministry, evidence being given by Members of the Health Committee, and on behalf of the Town Clerk's, Borough Surveyor's, Borough Treasurer's, Park's, and the Public Health Departments. This was a first class example of a combined effort, co-ordinated by the Town Clerk. The Council's proposal was confirmed later by the Ministry.

Publicity work with regard to cleanliness in connection with foodstuffs was carried a stage further when each food trader with premises in the borough was supplied with a large colour-printed card for display in his shop asking the public to co-operate in the clean food campaign. He was also supplied with a printed "Code of Practice" which was designed to guide persons employed in the food trade as to their duties and obligations under statute. Altogether 221 premises were visited and supplied with the card and code of practice. The food traders, through their organisations, were consulted with regard to the display card and the response has been exceptionally good. Another section of the duties in connection with foodstuffs, viz:—the fitness for human consumption of any foodstuffs available for sale, has had constant attention throughout the year. This part of the work occasions little public interest but is still of major importance.

My remarks have dealt with housing, cleansing, water supply and food, all of which are fundamentals in our civilised society. At the same time there are other services, not at the moment so prominent but of almost equal importance, which are recorded in the report and which may be of interest to the reader.

The work in the Department continues to grow, due to further statutory requirements and to the extension of the services under existing statutes. The time is fast approaching when the question of an additional sanitary inspector will require consideration so that the duties imposed on the Council can be fully carried out.

My appreciation and thanks are due to all Members and Officials of the Council for their interest, encouragement and valuable assistance, and to the staff for their loyal co-operation in all the work of the Department.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. DAWSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



**Water :**

The water supply of Haslingden is obtained mainly from the Irwell Valley Water Board, partly from the Accrington and District Gas and Water Board and partly from springs and wells. Of the 5,299 inhabited houses on the rate books at the end of 1951, approximately 4,960 houses are supplied by the Irwell Valley Water Board and the Accrington and District Gas and Water Board, whilst approximately 330 houses obtain their supply from springs and wells. The Irwell Valley Water Board supply 89.2 per cent of the houses, Accrington and District Gas and Water Board 4.6 per cent and private supplies 6.2 per cent. All the water supplied by the Irwell Valley Water Board and by the Accrington and District Gas and Water Board is delivered direct to the consumer, neither of these authorities delivering water by stand pipe.

Of the 5,299 houses in the Area approximately 46 per cent are fitted with their own baths.

Extensions of 469 yards to the existing mains of the Irwell Valley Water Board were laid during the year, for the purposes of new housing development and new services to existing properties.

The bulk of the water supplied in this area is now treated with lime for plumbo-solvency, and the results of this treatment are proving satisfactory.

Forty-five bacteriological and ten chemical examinations of the raw water were made. Ninety bacteriological and 20 chemical analyses of the treated water going into supply were made in 1951 and found to be mainly satisfactory.

Lime treatment of the water is applied at the reservoirs

All water is chlorinated at the source.

In December an Interim Report on a Survey of the Private Water Supplies within the Borough was presented to the Health Committee. The following are extracts from the Interim Report :—

A comparison of the safety of private water supplies and public supplies would possibly be of interest, and show clearly the inherent risks taken by consumers of private supplies unless special precautions are taken.

**The precautions taken by a public supply authority :**

- (a) Gathering grounds are subject to special protection.
- (b) Long storage in reservoirs gives considerable purification.
- (c) Filtration by some form of sand filter.
- (d) Chlorination of the water before distribution.
- (e) Daily sampling of water going into supply and on route to the consumer.

**Precautions taken where a private supply is in use :**

- (a) Occasional cleansing of the tank or well.
- (b) Occasional sampling by the Local Authority.

The survey was considered necessary on three grounds :

- (1) To bring up to date the statistical information with regard to private water supplies, so that the extent of the problem could be gauged with regard to (a) the physical possibilities of an improved water supply, and (b) the financial impact on the resources of the district.
- (2) To determine the quality and quantity of the private water supply to each of the houses involved. This is considered necessary as a public health precaution.
- (3) To investigate the possibilities of supplying water from the mains of the Irwell Valley Water Board or the Accrington District Water Board, where this is physically possible and is desirable on the grounds of insufficiency or unsuitability of the existing supply.

The survey itself covered over 500 houses where it was known that a private supply existed or where the actual type of supply was in doubt. A satisfactory feature of this survey was that the actual number of houses dependent on private supplies was only 331 which was somewhat less than

the estimate contained in our existing records. It will be appreciated that approximately a hundred houses (including 67 at Acre) have been coupled to the Water Board's mains during the last four years as a direct result of action by the Public Health Department. During the survey it was found that an appreciable number of houses had been provided with mains water in the last few years as a result of voluntary action by the owners concerned.

An analysis shows that of the 331 houses still supplied with private water, 249 have water piped direct to taps in the house; there are 15 houses where water is pumped into the house; two have water piped from tanks in the hillside to taps just outside the house; whilst the remaining 65 are dependent on water hand carried from wells outside—in some instances a considerable distance from the house.

The object of this interim report is to present a clear picture to the Committee of the extent of this important problem so that measures to deal with the matter can be given some consideration even before the report of costings etc., is received from the Irwell Valley Water Board.

During the year 50 existing houses and one lock-up shop have been supplied with water from the public mains in lieu of unsatisfactory private supplies.

### **Drainage and Sewerage:**

The sewage disposal works are under the control of a Joint Board and deal with the sewage of the three Rossendale Valley towns, Bacup, Haslingden and Rawtenstall. The plant is situated at the lowest point in the area, and the method of treatment is precipitation and filtration with outfall into the River Irwell.

There are still a number of houses not connected to public sewers, but these are mostly in outlying districts and farms.

### Sanitary Accommodation:

The figures below show the closet accommodation of the Borough at the end of the year:

1. Number of pail closets ... .. 146
2. Number of waste-water closets ... .. 2296
3. Number of fresh-water closets ... .. 2553
4. Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens) 9
5. Number of movable ashbins ... .. 5105

One hundred and forty-six pail closets are still in use. These are sited mainly on the perimeter of the Borough, and the work of conversion is being held up owing to the absence of suitable sewers or the lack of town's water supply, in many cases the head of water not being sufficient to feed the flushing cisterns of fresh-water closets.

Table XI shows the particulars of conversions during 1951.

**TABLE XI**  
**CONVERSIONS**

No of pail closets	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{To fresh w.c's} \\ \text{To waste w.c's.} \end{array} \right.$	Nil Nil
No. of waste w c's. to fresh w.c's.		8
No. of trough closets to fresh w c's.		Nil
No of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles		Nil

### Public Cleansing:

The vehicles used for cleansing are as follows:—Two freighters are used entirely on collection of household refuse. One freighter is used for the collection of waste food, and the collection of night-soil (in a special tank fitted on the vehicle).

Household refuse is collected bi-weekly and nightsoil weekly. All household refuse has been disposed of by controlled tipping at Meadow Well and nightsoil is discharged to the sewers by means of a special night-soil chute.

During the year the proposals of the Town Council to purchase land at South Shore for refuse disposal purposes were taken a stage further and consent of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was sought to borrow £900 for this purpose. Following the necessary advertisements a number of objections were made by residents and the Ministry decided to hold a Public Inquiry. This was held at the Municipal Offices on Wednesday, 7th November 1951, and was conducted by an Inspector of the Ministry,—J. Sumner, Esq., A.M.I.Mech.E. A very full investigation was made into the whole circumstances and many witnesses heard at the Inquiry at the Municipal Offices in the morning. In the afternoon the Inspector made an inspection of the proposed site, and also viewed the tip in use at Meadow Well, the completed tip at Prinny Hill, and several sites suggested by objectors to be superior to South Shore for refuse disposal purposes.

The Council later were informed officially that the application for borrowing powers to purchase land at South Shore had been approved.

The refuse collection wagons have dealt with the following material during the year:—

	Loads
Ashbin refuse ... ..	245·3
Waste food ... ..	104
Nightsoil ... ..	158
Salvage ... ..	35
Cover ... ..	66
	<hr/>
Total ... ..	2816
	<hr/>

The following shows particulars of the materials dealt with on the Meadow Well Tip:—

	Loads
Loads tipped by refuse wagons ... ..	2453
Sweepings from Borough Surveyor's Department	123
Loads tipped by private traders ... ..	1243
	<hr/>
Total ... ..	3819
	<hr/>

### SALVAGE

Towards the end of April, salvage of waste paper was re-commenced. Despite considerable and organised collection of paper by other persons and bodies a very appreciable amount was salvaged and sold.

Salvage was collected and sold as follows:—

	Tons	Cwts.
Paper ... ..	46	1
Rags ... ..		9
Metals ... ..	6	12
Waste food ... ..	104	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ... ..	157	14
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Gross Value:—£1035 0s. 11d.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Details of the inspection work carried out during 1951, are shown in Table XII.



TABLE XII

## INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Public Health Acts ... ..	418
Consolidated Regulations ... ..	7
Meat and Food Inspections:—	
Slaughter-houses ... ..	10
Butchers' Shops ... ..	13
Other food preparing places ... ..	63
Market ... ..	182
Farms ... ..	52
Milk Samples ... ..	50
Ice-Cream Premises ... ..	25
Ice-Cream Samples ... ..	8
Dairies ... ..	13
Bakehouses ... ..	12
Restaurant Kitchens ... ..	14
Common Lodging Houses ... ..	2
Infectious disease and disinfection ... ..	78
Shops Act ... ..	98
Water Samples ... ..	25
Rodent Control ... ..	69
Work completed ... ..	62
Smoke observations ... ..	11
Water supply ... ..	154
Outworkers ... ..	5
Offensive Trades ... ..	1
Schools ... ..	13
Factory and Workshops ... ..	46
Public Houses ... ..	4
Piggeries ... ..	4
Henpens ... ..	5
Others ... ..	519
	<hr/>
	1963

In Table XIII are given particulars of:—

- (a) Notices served and complied with:
- (b) Defects and nuisances found and remedied.

TABLE XIII

## (a) NOTICES.

	Served.	Complied with
Formal notices ... ..	11	4
Informal notices ... ..	141	118

## (b) NUISANCES AND DEFECTS.

	Discovered	Abated
Dwelling-houses :		
Dampness ... ..	25	12
Insufficient ashbins ... ..	2	1
Defective ashbins ... ..	227	216
Insanitary pail closets ... ..	9	9
Defective waste water closets	225	218
Defective fresh water closets	19	19
Defective drains... ..	91	83
Chimneys ... ..	2	2
Roofs ... ..	10	3
Eaves-gutters ... ..	11	10
Rain-water pipes ... ..	11	7
Pointing ... ..	1	—
Defective plaster ... ..	10	8
„ windows ... ..	7	4
„ floors ... ..	3	3
Others ... ..	25	9
Totals ... ..	678	604

Legal proceedings were taken in one instance. Two summonses in respect of one house were served. One dealt with nuisances under Section 93 and the other with a defective water closet under Section 45 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Orders were made on each summons and the owner fined £5, in addition to costs of £1 1s 0d.



### **Smoke Abatement :**

Eleven routine observations of the emission of smoke from mill chimneys were taken during the year, and in one instance the emission of dense smoke exceeded the time limit of two minutes per half hour. The problem of smoke emission was taken up with the Factory Management. A scheme for a new plant is in preparation.

### **Swimming Baths :**

The Corporation Swimming Baths provide one plunge bath, eight slipper baths and two medicinal (Zotofoam) baths.

The water in the plunge bath is treated by filtration, chlorination and aeration under pressure, and is chemically treated by sulphate of alumina and soda. The water is tested daily for pH value, for residual chlorine and for temperature. The pool capacity is approximately 76,000 gallons and there is complete turnover of the water each 3½ hours. Two bacteriological samples of the water were taken by the Health Department. Both were satisfactory.

### **Eradication of Bed Bugs :**

No cases had to be dealt with during the year.

### **Camp Sites :**

There have been no licenses issued by the local authority and no areas are used for camping purposes.

### **Schools :**

The sanitary conditions in the schools with certain exceptions are reasonably satisfactory. All schools are supplied with water from the town's mains.

### **Rodent Control :**

In March and September routine treatment of the Town's sewers for destroying rats was carried out. One hundred and sixty baits were laid and 34 complete takes were registered. The highest incidence of infestation is around the Town Centre.

During the year 22 private premises were dealt with for rodent infestations, all cases being of a minor character.

Including sewer treatment work and inspection and treatment of private premises 182 visits were made in 1951. This figure does not include many routine inspections for the presence of rodents.

### Offensive Trades:

There is one offensive trade carried on within the Borough viz: soap boiling. The premises receive periodic inspection.

### Factories Act, 1937:

The following table shows inspections made for the purpose of provisions as to health, including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

**TABLE XIV**

Premises	Number of		
	Inspection	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	15	—	—
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	29	1	—
Other premises ... .. under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not outworkers premises)	—	—	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>

The following table gives the number of defects found and remedied during the year.

TABLE XV

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Refer'd by H.M. Inspector	Numb'r of Prosec- utions.
Want of cleanliness ... ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ... ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ... ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ... ..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :				
Insufficient ... ..	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ... ..	4	4	1	—
Not separate for sexes... ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ... ..	5	5	—	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>

There are eight outworkers on the register. All were inspected during the year.

#### Shops and Offices :

Ninety-eight routine visits and inspections were made, during the year, of shops in the district. No action was found necessary with regard to offices.

#### Common Lodging-houses :

There are two common-lodging-houses registered in the Borough, both of which are situated in Town Ward. The premises receive periodic inspection. One is reasonably satisfactory, whilst the other is sub-standard.

#### Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928 :

There are no premises in the town where rag flock is manufactured and so far as is known none is being sold or used.



Section E

**Housing**

### Housing conditions:

The position with regard to substandard houses is much the same as reported last year.

The repair to existing houses is still presenting some difficulty due partly to shortages of materials and labour, partly to the economic problem of low rent and high repair costs, and in some instances, due to the completely worn out condition of the structures making repair almost an impossibility. At the end of 1951 there were 435 applicants on the register for Council Houses.

### Statistics:

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

		Prefabricated Houses		Traditional
		Temporary	Permanent	Permanent Houses
(a)	By Local Authority	—	—	28
(b)	By other Local Authorities	—	—	5
(c)	By other bodies or persons	—	—	2
Totals ...		—	—	35

Houses in hand at end of December, 1951 ... .. 96

Houses contemplated at end of December, 1951 46

### Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding:

When calculated by the number of houses in the Borough (5,299) and the preliminary census population (14,505) overcrowding would seem to be non-existent, as an average of only 2.74 persons per house is shown. Uneven occupation of houses where four and six roomed houses have only one occupant, can lead to overcrowding in others. Without a re-survey it is impossible to state the exact position. Building of "old persons" houses may help to abate overcrowding by releasing larger houses for families.

## 1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ... ..	200
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	425
(2) (a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... ..	4
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	7
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	2
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	141

## 2. Remedy of defects during the year: —

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	118
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## 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	2
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By owners ... ..	1
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	—
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	9
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners ... ..	3
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	—
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	—
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	—
4.	Number of houses demolished without service of Demolition Orders ... ..	—
5.	Housing Act, 1949 :	

Two schemes were submitted by private individuals under this Act, affecting two houses, but none were approved for grant. - Numerous preliminary applications have been contemplated for assistance under the Act, but in all cases have not been carried further owing to their being unable to comply with all the necessary conditions laid down.



Section F

**Inspection and Supervision  
of Food**

### **Milk:**

During the year 65 inspections were made at farms and dairies in the Borough. Many of the visits were in connection with water supplies, a matter now receiving the close attention it deserves.

Thirteen bacteriological and four chemical samples were taken from different sources of water supply at five of the farms in the Borough and schemes are envisaged or in preparation at four of these farms.

Forty-six samples were taken of milk produced and retailed by farmers in this locality. Forty-six were submitted for examination for tubercle bacilli and 45 for the Methylene Blue test.

Four gave positive results and were reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for action under the Tuberculosis Order. Two of the samples failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue test whilst 43 were satisfactory.

Five samples of pasteurised milk were submitted for Phosphatase and Methylene Blue tests. All were satisfactory.

At 31st December there were 46 Distributors of milk on the register, in addition to farmers retailing their own milk.

### **Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 (Raw Milk) (Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk):**

The following held licences under the Special Designation Regulations at the end of December, 1951:

- 43 Dealers' Licences for Sterilized Milk.
- 11 Dealers' Licences for T. T. Milk.
- 8 Dealers' Licences for Pasteurised Milk.
- 1 Supplementary Licence for T. T. Milk.
- 1 Supplementary Licence for Pasteurised Milk.

### **Examination of Milk Supplies:**

Particulars of the bacteriological examination of milk during 1951, are given in Table XVI.

TABLE XVI

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK  
DURING 1951.

Particulars of Examination	No of Samples					No. of Farms
	Total	Negative	Positive	Satisfactory	Not-Satisfactory	
Biological for Tuberculosis	46	42	4	—	—	46
Methylene Blue	50	—	—	48	2	45
Phosphatase	5	—	—	5	—	—

**Inspection of Meat and Other Food :**

Inspections are made at retailers shops including butchers' shops, where foodstuffs are stored, exposed for sale or in course of preparation for sale. The Market is visited each Market Day i.e. Tuesday and Friday. The number of visits paid for the purpose of meat and food inspection during the year was 282.

During the year 25 pigs were inspected. In all cases permits to slaughter had been received. In three instances the carcass and organs were condemned and destroyed and in eight other cases it was necessary to condemn some part or organ.

**Food Poisoning :**

No cases of food poisoning or suspected food poisoning have been reported during the year.

### Food Condemned :

The following foodstuffs were condemned during 1951 as unfit for human consumption and have been dealt with as directed by the Government.

Tinned Meat ... ..	665 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Tinned Fruit ... ..	421 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables ... ..	201 lbs.
Tinned Milk ... ..	107 lbs.
Cheese ... ..	13 lbs.
Tinned Soup ... ..	97 lbs.
Tinned Fish ... ..	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Fresh Meat ... ..	130 lbs.
Fresh Fish ... ..	78 lbs.
<hr/>	
Total ... ..	<u><u>1717 lbs.</u></u>

### Food Premises :

All food traders with premises in the Borough, including bakers, grocers, fish and chip purveyors, greengrocers, fishmongers, sweets and ice-cream dealers, confectioners, cooked meat dealers, mixed-shop traders, and canteens, catering establishments, hotels with catering licences, and food dealers on the Market, were all supplied with :—

- (a) A large colour-printed card for display on their premises, asking for the co-operation of their customers in the clean food campaign.
- (b) A printed "code of practice" for the guidance of all persons employed in the food trade.

Altogether, 221 food premises were visited and provided with copies of the above mentioned card and code of practice. The trade was consulted in advance with regard to the card for display purposes, and the response has been remarkably good. Months after these were first supplied, it has been found that almost every shop still has the card displayed in a prominent position on the premises. The reaction of the public has also been very good, and there appears to have been awakened a sense of responsibility in the minds of the shoppers, which in turn has encouraged a similar response from the shopkeeper.

The ideal of regular inspection of food premises cannot be achieved by the present staff, but inspections are carried out as frequently as possible.

Attention has been given to catering establishments of all sizes, but particularly to the smaller type where proper food storage facilities and kitchen hygiene often leave much to be desired, and improvements have been effected in a number of cases.

During the year 12 premises were registered for the sale of ice-cream. Altogether 39 premises are now on the register. Most of these purchase prepacked ice-cream and sell either in cartons or wrapped.

Eight samples were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results:—5 in grade 1; 3 in grade 2.

#### **Bakehouses:**

There are 39 bakehouses on the register, some of these being very small businesses. There are still a few underground bakehouses.

#### **Public Health (Shell Fish) Regulations, 1934:**

No action was taken under these Regulations during the year.

#### **Adulteration, Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations of Food:**

The administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and Regulations concerned with adulteration are under the control of the Lancashire County Council and their Officers take samples in this district. The bacteriological examination of foodstuffs is dealt with by the Borough Council and samples are submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Morsall Hospital, Manchester.





